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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

004900-194

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.5)

09/744686INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/FR99/01805INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
22 July 1999PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
29 July 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION

MIXED MASKED (POLY)ISOCYANATES

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

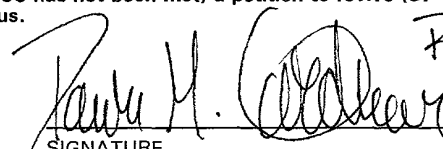
Eugenie CHARRIERE; Jean-Marie BERNARD

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and the PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)
- ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
- ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
- ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
 - ☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☐ Other items or information:

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---|------------------|--|--------------|
| U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.50) 09/744686 | | INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR99/01805 | | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 004900-194 | |
| 17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: | | | | CALCULATIONS | PTO USE ONLY |
| Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1,000.00 (960) International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 (970) International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00 (958) International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00 (956) International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 (962) | | | | | |
| ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = | | | | | |
| Surcharge of \$130.00 (154) for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 <input type="checkbox"/> months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). | | | | \$ | |
| Claims | Number Filed | Number Extra | Rate | | |
| Total Claims | 20 - 20 = | 0 | X\$18.00 (966) | \$ | -- |
| Independent Claims | 2 - 3 = | 0 | X\$80.00 (964) | \$ | -- |
| Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable) | | | + \$270.00 (968) | \$ | |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = | | | | \$ | 860.00 |
| Reduction for 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable (see below). | | | | \$ | - |
| SUBTOTAL = | | | | \$ | 860.00 |
| Processing fee of \$130.00 (156) for furnishing the English translation later than 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 <input type="checkbox"/> months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). | | | | \$ | |
| + | | | | | |
| TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = | | | | \$ | 860.00 |
| Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 (581) per property + | | | | \$ | |
| TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = | | | | \$ | 860.00 |
| | | | | Amount to be: | |
| | | | | refunded | \$ |
| | | | | charged | \$ |
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Small entity status is hereby claimed. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <u>860.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed. c. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>02-4800</u> in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>02-4800</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. | | | | | |
| NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status. | | | | | |
| SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Norman H. Stepno BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P. P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (703) 836-6620 | | | | | |
| SIGNATURE  NAME Norman H. Stepno | | | | REGISTRATION NUMBER 30,427 | |

09/744686

JCO7 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 JAN 2001

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 004900-194

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Eugenie CHARRIERE et al.) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: Unassigned) Examiner: Unassigned
(Corresponds to PCT/FR99/01805)
International Filing Date: 22 July 1999
For: MIXED MASKED
(POLY)ISOCYANATES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-19, without prejudice or disclaimer and insert the following claims in lieu thereof:

--20. A composition comprising isocyanates, at least partially blocked by at least two different blocking agents, one of the blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an OH group and the other reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an NH group or the two blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an OH group, the two blocking agents having a deblocking temperature of between 80 and 200°C in the octanol test and being selected so that, in the octanol test at 110°C, the ratio

percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks first at 110°C

D = $\frac{\text{percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks first at 110°C}}{\text{percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks last at 110°C}}$

is greater than 4/3, with the proviso that, when a blocking agent comprises a phenol functional group as blocking functional group, it does not comprise a COOH functional group and that, when the polyisocyanate composition comprises more than two blocking groups and one of the agents represents a five-membered nitrogenous heterocycle, the composition comprises more than 30 equivalent % of blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via the OH functional group.

21. A composition comprising isocyanates at least partially blocked, by at least two different blocking agents as defined in claim 20, wherein said ratio D is greater than 1.5.

22. A composition comprising isocyanates at least partially blocked by at least two different blocking agents as defined in claim 20, wherein said ratio D is greater than 2.

23. The composition of claim 20, wherein the ratio of the blocking groups is between 10/90 and 90/10.

24. The composition of claim 20, wherein one of the blocking agents is a substituted or unsubstituted (poly)nitrogenous heterocyclic compound.

25. The composition of claim 20, wherein the ratio of the blocking groups is between 20/80 and 80/20.

26. The composition of claim 20, wherein one of the blocking agents is selected from the group consisting of pyrazole, triazole and pyridine, optionally substituted.

27. The composition of claim 26, wherein one of the blocking agents is triazole, optionally substituted.

28. The composition of claim 20, wherein one of the two blocking agents is an oxime.

29. The composition of claim 20, wherein one of the blocking agents is an oxime selected from the group consisting of methyl ethyl ketoxime, acetone oxime, methyl amyl ketoxime, the oxime of methyl pyruvate and the oxime of ethyl pyruvate.

30. The composition of claim 20, wherein said blocking agents are selected from the pairs:

- triazole/methyl ethyl ketoxime,

- triazole/oxime of ethyl pyruvate,
- dimethylpyrazole/methyl amyl ketoxime,
- hydroxypyridine/methyl amyl ketoxime, and
- dimethylpyrazole/hydroxypyridine.

31. The composition of claim 20, comprising a mixture of compounds bearing blocked isocyanate functional group(s), wherein said compounds exhibit a mean functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked isocyanate functional groups per molecule comprising them) of greater than 2, and at most equal to 5.

32. The composition of claim 20, comprising a mixture of compounds bearing blocked isocyanate functional group(s), wherein said compounds exhibit a mean functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked isocyanate functional groups per molecule comprising them) at least equal to 2.1, and at most equal to 4.

33. The composition of claim 20, comprising a mixture of compounds bearing blocked isocyanate functional group(s) wherein said compounds exhibit a mean functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked isocyanate functional group per molecule comprising them) at least equal to 2.4.

34. The composition of claim 20, comprising a mixture of compounds bearing blocked isocyanate functional group(s) wherein said compounds exhibit a mean

functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked isocyanate functional group per molecule comprising them) at most equal to 3.7.

35. The composition of claim 20, comprising a mixture of compounds bearing blocked isocyanate functional group(s), wherein compounds bearing isocyanate functional groups fulfill at least one of the following conditions:

- at least one third of the free or blocked NCO functional groups are connected to a hydrocarbonaceous backbone via a saturated (sp^3) carbon;
- at least one third of said saturated (sp^3) carbons carry at least one ;
- at least one third of said saturated (sp^3) carbons are connected to said backbone via a carbon atom itself bearing at least one hydrogen.

36. A kit for the preparation of a coating, comprising, for successive or simultaneous addition, a composition of claim 20 and a coreactant comprising a reactive hydrogen.

37. The kit of claim 30, for the preparation of a paint.

38. A process for the preparation of a composition, comprising the step of reacting a (poly)isocyanate composition, successively or simultaneously, with at least two different blocking agents, one of the blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an OH group and the other reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an

NH group or the two blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an OH group, the two blocking agents having a deblocking temperature of between 80 and 200°C in the octanol test and being selected so that, in the octanol test at 110°C, the ratio

$$D = \frac{\text{percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks first at } 110^{\circ}\text{C}}{\text{percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks last at } 110^{\circ}\text{C}}$$

is greater than 4/3, with the proviso that, when a blocking agent comprises a phenol functional group as blocking functional group, it does not comprise a COOH functional group and that, when the polyisocyanate composition comprises more than two blocking groups and one of the agents represents a five-membered nitrogenous heterocycle, the composition comprises more than 30 equivalent % of blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via the OH functional group.

39. A process for the preparation of coating polymers, comprising the following steps:

- bringing together the composition of claim 20 and a coreactant which comprises derivatives exhibiting reactive hydrogens; and
- heating the reaction mixture thus formed to a temperature which allows crosslinking of the isocyanate groups of compounds with said coreactant.--

REMARKS

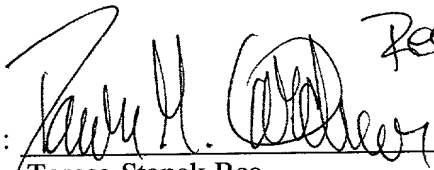

Entry of the foregoing amendment(s) is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to place them in better condition for U.S. patent practice.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 
Teresa Stanek Rea
Registration No. 30,427
For: 
Reg. No. 24,118

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: January 29, 2001

FILED "334460

Mixed blocked (poly)isocyanates

The present invention relates to blocked (poly)isocyanate compounds and to their use in the manufacture of coatings.

More specifically, the present invention relates to (poly)isocyanates, some at least of the isocyanate functional groups of which are blocked or protected by at least two thermolabile protective radicals, which radicals are sometimes identified by the term "blocking" or "blocking".

A particular subject matter of the present invention is molecular compounds constituting a unit, whether mono-, oligo- or polymeric in nature, which carries isocyanate groups and which can react with appropriate coreactants, such as alcohols, phenols, amines, aminophenols or aminoalcohols, advantageously at least partially bi- or polyfunctional coreactants, which can be mono-, oligo- or polymeric in nature.

The present invention also relates to a process for producing these new blocked polyisocyanates.

It additionally targets the use of the above blocked polyisocyanates in compositions for the preparation of polymers, especially of polycondensates and of reticulates resulting from the reaction of said protected polyisocyanates and of nucleophilic coreactants. This preparation is that which is used in industrial applications, such as coatings of all types and especially those on textiles, on glasses, on papers, on metals and on construction materials, and paints.

The usefulness of blocking isocyanate functional groups (blocking sometimes denoted by blocking), indeed even the necessity thereof, is explained by an excessively high reactivity at ambient temperature of isocyanates with respect to some coreactants or with respect to a reactive solvent, or to a generally continuous support phase in the case of emulsions or suspensions, such as water. This high

reactivity is often highly restricting, especially for certain applications of polyurethanes, in particular in paints, because it makes it essential to separately package, and sometimes to separately handle, the isocyanate comonomer, resulting in a use which is not very convenient.

Thus, in all the applications of polyurethanes as coatings, it is of the greatest advantage to have available blocked isocyanates, in which the isocyanate functional group is rendered unreactive at ambient temperature with respect to its coreactants but maintained reactive at a higher temperature.

These blocked isocyanate units are advantageous in several respects. In the first place, they make it possible to provide, in one and the same packaging, coating compositions (including emulsions and suspensions) in which the isocyanate component is stable and relatively insensitive to water. It follows that it is no longer necessary to use expensive anhydrous solvents which are specific to isocyanates and that it is possible to store the blocked isocyanates for a long time, without deterioration, under conditions where those which are free would deteriorate.

The use of blocked polyisocyanates also makes it possible to reduce, indeed even to eliminate, the possible toxic risk associated with the presence of free and unstable isocyanates.

The improvement in this technique for blocking isocyanate functional groups on reactive mono-, oligo- or polymer units involves the optimization, in general a lowering, of the reaction temperature, that is to say that at which the deprotection is carried out, thus leading to the targeted polymerization and/or crosslinking.

More specifically, the deblocking temperature must be sufficiently high for there to be no risk of reaction during the storage period and this reaction

temperature must be sufficiently low for it to be easy to carry out the polycondensation when this is desired.

In general, the "release" temperature of isocyanates, especially aliphatic isocyanates (that is to say that the carbon carrying the nitrogen has sp^3 hybridization), is excessively high. Which implies that the goal is a lowering of this release temperature.

Such a lowering is reflected by not insignificant economic savings in energy and in process time.

Incidentally, it should be pointed out that the blocking groups used in the case of aromatic isocyanates cannot generally be used directly for aliphatic isocyanates, the "release" temperature for the same blocking group being several tens of degrees centigrade higher than that of the aromatic isocyanates.

Many blocking radicals have already been used. Mention may be made among them of, inter alia, triazoles, imidazolines, lactams, hydroxynitrogenous compounds, sodium bisulfites, isocyanate dimers, phenols, acetoacetic acid esters and alcohols. One of the most widely used groups is the group of dialkyl ketoximes, which, however, exhibits the major disadvantage of exhibiting a release temperature which is too high for many applications.

Among these blocking agents, only those with a deblocking temperature of between approximately 80°C (two significant figure) and 200°C (two significant figures) are regarded as true blocking agents, in other words those which respond positively to the octanol test within the temperature range from 80°C to 200°C .

It should be noted that the multiplicity of the parameters makes it difficult to systematize certain families.

Thus, one of the essential objectives of the present invention is to provide new polyisocyanates comprising blocked functional groups having a relatively low dissociation temperature for a limited

duration and with a dissociation yield compatible with polymerization techniques.

A second objective of the invention is to provide polyisocyanates comprising blocked functional groups which are soluble in the usual solvents used for this type of application.

Another objective of the invention is to provide new polyisocyanates comprising blocked functional groups which have little or no toxicity.

Another objective of the invention is to provide novel polyisocyanates comprising blocked functional groups which are not dangerous and/or problematic to handle and to use.

Another objective of the invention is to
15 provide new polyisocyanates comprising blocked
functional groups which are economical.

Another objective of the invention is to provide new polyisocyanates comprising blocked functional groups which give access to optionally crosslinked polymers (or rather to polycondensates) which satisfy the requirements of the applications.

In reality, these objectives are somewhat contradictory.

Thus, it is known that polyisocyanates
25 comprising blocking functional groups of (poly)-
nitrogenous heterocycle type, in particular triazole
type, respond particularly well to the first objective
of the invention but very poorly to the second because
of their poor solubility in the usual solvents.

30 In addition, the use of these compounds is particularly advantageous because of their low cost.

Conversely, blocking groups of oxime type result in blocked polyisocyanates which exhibit good solubility in the usual solvents but which release the
35 blocking group at higher temperatures. In addition, some free oximes are said to be toxic.

By virtue of the studies carried out by the inventors, it has been shown that some at least of these different objectives can be reconciled by

blocking the polyisocyanates by means of two different blocking groups exhibiting a difference in reactivity and thus a difference in release temperature.

In particular, it has been shown that, when a composition comprising (poly)isocyanate(s) is at least partially blocked by two different blocking groups corresponding to the definition below, the overall release temperature, as measured by the octanol test explained in detail below, is that or at the very least very close to that of the group which is released in first place, that is to say the lowest temperature.

The various objectives set out above can be more advantageously reconciled when use is made of two different blocking agents exhibiting a difference in release temperature, one comprising a reactive hydrogen group -OH and the second a reactive hydrogen group -NH, respectively forming, by reaction with the NCO isocyanate functional groups, bonds of pseudourethane and urea type.

In an unpublished patent application, the Applicant Company has disclosed mixed blocked isocyanates which can be used in powder paints in which the isocyanate functional groups are blocked by at least two blocking agents, at least one of which exhibits a non-carbonaceous carboxyl functional group. In these isocyanates, however, the blocking role of the group carrying the carboxyl group is inseparable from the catalytic role.

The subject matter of the invention is thus an at least partially blocked composition comprising isocyanates, characterized in that it is blocked by at least two different blocking agents selected so that, in the octanol test at 110°C, the ratio

$$D = \frac{\text{percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks first at 110°C}}{\text{percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks last at 110°C}}$$

is greater than $4/3$, advantageously greater than 1.5, preferably greater than 2, with the proviso that, when a blocking agent comprises a phenol functional group as blocking functional group, it does not comprise a COOH functional group.

The deblocking percentages are measured at 110°C according to the octanol test on the isocyanate completely blocked by a single blocking agent, that for which the measurement is carried out.

The most commonly used blocking agents are those cited by M. Wicks in his article "Blocked isocyanates", Progress in Organic Coatings (1975), Vol. 3, p. 73; their deblocking temperatures are advantageously greater than 90°C.

The blocking agents can be divided into three groups:

- those for which the mobile hydrogen is carried by a chalcogen;
- those for which the mobile hydrogen is carried by a nitrogen;
- those for which the mobile hydrogen is carried by a carbon.

Among those for which the mobile hydrogen is carried by a chalcogen (preferably a light chalcogen, namely sulfur and oxygen), use is especially made of those where the chalcogen is an oxygen. Mention may in particular be made, among the latter, of:

- products comprising an >N-OH sequence, such as, for example, oximes (=N-OH) or hydroxyimides ($[-CO-]_2N-OH$); and
- phenols, in particular those for which the aromatic nucleus is depleted in electrons, such as hydroxypicolines and hydroxybenzoates (for example, EP-A-680 984 and WO 98/4608).

Mention may also be made of the compounds disclosed in application EP-A-661 278.

Mention may in particular be made, among those for which the mobile hydrogen is carried by a nitrogen, of:

- monosubstituted amides and in particular lactams (the most widely used being caprolactam);

- imides ($[-CO-]_2N-H$), in particular cyclic imides, such as succinimide;

5 - unsaturated nitrogenous heterocycles, in particular with five ring members (advantageously doubly unsaturated), preferably comprising at least two hetero atoms (preferably nitrogen). Mention may be made, among the latter, of diazoles (such as
10 glyoxalines and pyrazoles), triazoles or indeed even tetrazoles.

Mention may also be made of the compounds disclosed in application EP-A-661 278.

15 Mention may essentially be made, among those for which the mobile hydrogen is carried by a carbon, of compounds of malonic nature, that is to say an $RCH<$ radical carrying two electron-withdrawing groups (such as carbonyl, nitrile, R_f or perfluoroalkyl).

20 Mention may therefore in particular be made of the following pairs of blocking agents: methyl amyl ketoxime/2-hydroxypyridine and dimethylpyrazole/2-hydroxypyridine.

25 To the knowledge of the Applicant Company, none of the pairs disclosed previously possesses either the advantages or the characteristic mentioned above. In particular, the pyrazole/triazole pair exhibits a ratio D of between 1.1 and 1.2.

30 A particular subject matter of the invention is an at least partially blocked composition comprising isocyanates, characterized in that it is blocked by at least two different blocking agents corresponding to the above condition, at least one of which reacts with the isocyanate functional group via an $-OH$ group and at least another of which reacts with the isocyanate
35 functional group via an $-NH$ group.

Another subject matter of the invention is an at least partially blocked composition comprising isocyanates, characterized in that it is blocked by two (indeed even more) different blocking agents

corresponding to the above condition which react with the isocyanate functional group via the -NH group.

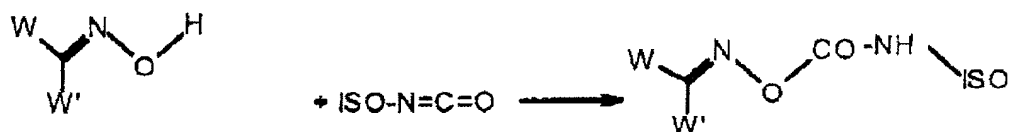
Mention may in particular be made of blocking agents of pyrazole or substituted pyrazole type.

5 Another subject matter of the invention is an at least partially blocked composition comprising isocyanates, characterized in that it is blocked by two different blocking agents corresponding to the above condition which react with the isocyanate functional
10 group via the -OH group.

The two blocking groups are advantageously present in a ratio (expressed in equivalents of blocking functional group) of between 10/90 and 90/10, preferably 20/80 - 80/20.

15 Among the blocking compounds with a mobile hydrogen group carried by an OH group, oximes are preferred. Mention may in particular be made of methyl ethyl ketoxime, acetone oxime, methyl amyl ketoxime, the oxime of methyl pyruvate or the oxime of ethyl
20 pyruvate (also denoted by "POME").

It should be remembered that oximes add to isocyanate functional groups, the hydrogen going to the nitrogen while the oxygen is grafted onto the carbon of the carbonyl, according to the scheme:



25 W and W', which are identical or different, representing aliphatic, alicyclic or aromatic hydrocarbonaceous or heterocyclic groups, it also being possible for W and W' together to represent a
30 carbonaceous or heterocyclic ring. It is desirable for W and W' not to be simultaneously aromatic (that is to say that an aromatic ring is bonded directly to the carbon of the oxime functional group).

35 The W and W' groups can also comprise any type of substituent.

Mention may be made, as examples of substituents, of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, heterocyclic, alkoxy, perhaloalkyl (CF₃, CCl₃ and the like) and polyalkoxy groups. The substituents can in particular be electron-withdrawing substituents, as disclosed in patent application WO 97/24386.

All substituents are suitable with the exception of those exhibiting a greater reactivity than the OH functional group of the oxime with the isocyanate functional group of the isocyanate compound.

The alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and alkoxy groups generally comprise from 1 (two for the alkenyl and alkynyl groups) to ten carbon atoms, preferably from 1 (two for the alkenyl and alkynyl groups) to six carbon atoms, the aryl groups advantageously being C₆-C₁₈ aryl groups.

ISO represents the residue of the isocyanate molecule, which can comprise, as is described previously, (an)other isocyanate group(s).

Mention may in particular be made, among the blocking compounds with a mobile hydrogen carried by an >NH group, of nitrogenous heterocycles, in particular polynitrogenous heterocycles, preferably with five or six ring members, a few examples of which are composed of imidazole, pyrazole, triazoles (1,2,3-(triazole and 1,2,4-triazole), tetrazole and their substituted derivatives, triazoles being preferred.

The derivatives of these compounds carrying one or more substituents, that is to say at least one, two or three substituents, are also suitable, the substituents being as defined above for the oxime.

All the substituents are suitable, with the exception of those exhibiting a greater reactivity than the NH functional group of the nitrogenous heterocycle with the isocyanate functional group of the isocyanate compound.

These blocking groups of nitrogenous heterocycle type add to the isocyanate functional

groups, the hydrogen going to the nitrogen while the nitrogen is drafted onto the carbon of the carbonyl of the isocyanate functional group, according to the scheme:



ISO being as defined above.

The preferred isocyanate compositions according to the invention are the compositions in which the blocking groups are respectively an oxime and triazole
10 (1,2,3-triazole or 1,2,4-triazole), the oxime advantageously being methyl ethyl ketoxime, methyl amyl ketoxime, the oxime of methyl pyruvate or the oxime of ethyl pyruvate.

Surprisingly, it has been found that, when the
15 polyisocyanate composition comprises triazole/oxime blocking groups, in particular for "true" oximes, that is to say oximes carrying two alkyl chains α to the C carrying the N-OH group, in the abovementioned ratio (at least 10% and up to 90% of triazole groups, more
20 particularly when it comprises at least 50% of triazole groups), the release temperature for the blocking groups is always less than that of the oxime group and close to that of the triazole group.

Triazole is a blocking agent which is very
25 difficult to use because the compounds which it gives are only soluble in very few solvents. An additional advantage of the present invention is that of providing blocked compounds, one of the blocking agents of which is triazole (one mixed blocked compounds, one of the
30 blocking agents of which is triazole (one or the other isomer, generally a mixture of the two), which have good solubility in the usual solvents while having the same advantages as triazole.

Consequently, in order to obtain good
35 solubility, when one of the blocking agents is triazole, it is desirable for the latter to be combined with at least one blocking agent where the mobile hydrogen is carried by an oxygen, advantageously an

oxime. A triazole/all the blocking agents ratio by mass is advantageously at most equal to 2/3, preferably to 50%.

Problems of solubility are encountered when use is made, as blocking agents, of two different compounds exhibiting 5-membered nitrogenous heterocycles, in which case, in order to avoid crystallinity and thus insolubility in the solvents, it is desirable:

- either to have at least 1/3 of blocking groups comprising an -OH functional group;

- or to have blocking agents comprising 5-membered nitrogenous heterocycles carrying substituents, the sum in equivalents of the carbon atoms of the substituent groups with regard to the nitrogenous rings (number of carbon atoms of the substituent groups/number of 5-membered nitrogenous rings) being at least equal to 4, preferably to 6.

Generally, it is preferable for there to be not more than two blocking groups present in the composition.

However, when more than two blocking groups are present, it is preferable, in the case where the third group deblocks at a temperature in the vicinity of the deblocking temperature of the first, for the amount of blocking groups in addition to the two main groups not to exceed 30% in equivalents, advantageously not more than 25%, preferably not more than 20% and in particular not more than 15% in equivalents with respect to the sum of the blocked functional groups of the polyisocyanate composition.

As was mentioned above, the isocyanates for which the invention is most advantageous are those for which the nitrogen atom is bonded to a carbon with sp^3 hybridization and more particularly aliphatic isocyanates. Mention may in particular be made of polymethylene diisocyanates (for example, TMDI (TetraMethylene Diisocyanate) and HDI [Hexamethylene Diisocyanate = $OCN-(CH_2)_6-NCO$]) and their various condensation derivatives (biuret, and the like) and

"trimerization" derivatives (in the field under consideration, the mixtures resulting from the formation of isocyanuric rings from three isocyanate functional groups are known as trimer; in fact, there are, in addition to the true trimer, heavier products resulting from the trimerization).

Mention may also be made of isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI), norbornane diisocyanate (NBDI), 1,3-bis(isocyanatomethyl)cyclohexane (BIC), H₁₂-MDI and cyclohexyl 1,4-diisocyanate.

Mention may also be made of arylenedialkylene diisocyanates, such as OCN-CH₂-Ø-CH₂-NCO.

It is desirable, in the structure of the monomer isocyanate(s), for the portion of the backbone connecting two isocyanate functional groups to comprise at least one polymethylene linkage (CH₂)_π, where π represents an integer from two to 10, advantageously from 4 to 8. This preference affects the mechanical performance. When there are several linkages, the latter can be alike or different. In addition, it is desirable for at least one, preferably all, these linkages to be free to rotate and thus exocyclic.

In addition it is preferable, in the blocked polyisocyanate composition, for reasons of crystallinity, for at least 20% of the monomer units of the (poly)condensation product to exhibit a polymethylene linkage (CH₂)_π as specified above.

When the polyisocyanate composition comprises more than two blocking groups, it is preferable, when one of the agents represents a 5-membered nitrogenous heterocycle, for more than 30 equivalent % of blocking agent(s) comprising an -OH reactive functional group to be present.

Generally, it is preferable to avoid the use of a blocking agent comprising a secondary amine group carrying two aliphatic chains, such as, for example, diisopropylamine.

Blocking agents comprising a nitrogenous heterocycle of aromatic or pseudoaromatic nature, such

as pyrazole, triazole, imidazole, tetrazole, pyrazoline, and the like, and generally exhibiting an unsaturation in the ring, do not come within this category.

5 For the usual uses of isocyanates which are said to be completely blocked, the percentage of residual free isocyanate functional group is preferably at most equal to 5%, advantageously 2%, preferably 1%. The degree of release is quantified by the octanol test
10 (see below).

According to the present invention, the blocked polyisocyanate, pure or as a mixture, results from a polyisocyanate, that is to say having at least two isocyanate functional groups, advantageously more than
15 two (possibilities of fractional values since it is generally a mixture of more or less condensed oligomers), which itself generally results from a precondensation or from a prepolymerization of a diisocyanate unit (sometimes described in the present
20 description as "monomer").

Generally, 90% of the molecules constituting the mixture of these prepolymers or of these precondensates before blocking have an average molecular mass at most equal to approximately 2 000
25 (Mw), more commonly to approximately 1 000 (Mw), the term approximately meaning that the positional zeros are not significant figures (in other words, the single figure is significant in this case).

Thus, mention may be made, among the
30 polyisocyanates used for the invention, of those of the biuret type and those which, by a di- or trimerization reaction, have resulted in four-, five- or six-membered rings. Mention may be made, among the six-membered rings, of the isocyanuric rings resulting from a homo-
35 or from a heterotrimerization of various diisocyanates alone, with other isocyanate(s) [mono-, di- or polyisocyanate(s)] or with carbon dioxide gas; in this case, a nitrogen of the isocyanuric ring is replaced by

an oxygen. Oligomers comprising isocyanuric rings are preferred.

The preferred polyisocyanates are those which exhibit at least one aliphatic isocyanate functional group. In other words, at least one blocked isocyanate functional group according to the invention is connected to the backbone via a carbon of sp^3 type advantageously carrying a hydrogen atom, preferably two hydrogen atoms. It is desirable for said carbon of sp^3 type to be itself carried by a carbon of sp^3 type advantageously equipped with one, preferably with two, hydrogen atoms, in order to avoid the isocyanate functional group under consideration from being in the neopentyl position. In other words, it is advisable to select, as monomers (which generally carry two isocyanate functional groups), at least one compound which carries at least one aliphatic functional group which is neither secondary or tertiary nor neopentyl.

When the composition according to the invention comprises a mixture of isocyanates, it is generally preferable for said mixture to exhibit a mean functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked isocyanate functional groups per molecule comprising them) of greater than 2, advantageously at least equal to 2.1, and at most equal to approximately 15, advantageously to 7, preferably at least equal to 2.4 and at most equal to 4.

The present invention can also be used for lattices and in particular lattices exhibiting blocked isocyanate functional groups such as disclosed in the European patents of the Applicant Company EP-A-739 961 and EP-A-674 667.

In addition, preference is given to the mixtures of isocyanate compounds in which at least one, advantageously at least two, preferably at least three, of the following conditions are combined:

- at least one third, advantageously two thirds, preferably four fifth, of the free or blocked NCO functional groups are connected to a

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| Parameter | Value | Unit |
|----------------|-------|------|
| 1. α | 0.001 | |
| 2. β | 0.001 | |
| 3. γ | 0.001 | |
| 4. δ | 0.001 | |
| 5. ϵ | 0.001 | |
| 6. ζ | 0.001 | |
| 7. η | 0.001 | |
| 8. θ | 0.001 | |
| 9. ι | 0.001 | |
| 10. κ | 0.001 | |
| 11. λ | 0.001 | |
| 12. μ | 0.001 | |
| 13. ν | 0.001 | |
| 14. ξ | 0.001 | |
| 15. \omicron | 0.001 | |
| 16. π | 0.001 | |
| 17. ρ | 0.001 | |
| 18. σ | 0.001 | |
| 19. τ | 0.001 | |
| 20. υ | 0.001 | |
| 21. ϕ | 0.001 | |
| 22. χ | 0.001 | |
| 23. ψ | 0.001 | |
| 24. ω | 0.001 | |
| 25. κ | 0.001 | |
| 26. λ | 0.001 | |
| 27. μ | 0.001 | |
| 28. ν | 0.001 | |
| 29. ξ | 0.001 | |
| 30. \omicron | 0.001 | |
| 31. π | 0.001 | |
| 32. ρ | 0.001 | |
| 33. σ | 0.001 | |
| 34. τ | 0.001 | |
| 35. υ | 0.001 | |
| 36. ϕ | 0.001 | |
| 37. χ | 0.001 | |
| 38. ψ | 0.001 | |
| 39. ω | 0.001 | |
| 40. κ | 0.001 | |
| 41. λ | 0.001 | |
| 42. μ | 0.001 | |
| 43. ν | 0.001 | |
| 44. ξ | 0.001 | |
| 45. \omicron | 0.001 | |
| 46. π | 0.001 | |
| 47. ρ | 0.001 | |
| 48. σ | 0.001 | |
| 49. τ | 0.001 | |
| 50. υ | 0.001 | |
| 51. ϕ | 0.001 | |
| 52. χ | 0.001 | |
| 53. ψ | 0.001 | |
| 54. ω | 0.001 | |
| 55. κ | 0.001 | |
| 56. λ | 0.001 | |
| 57. μ | 0.001 | |
| 58. ν | 0.001 | |
| 59. ξ | 0.001 | |
| 60. \omicron | 0.001 | |
| 61. π | 0.001 | |
| 62. ρ | 0.001 | |
| 63. σ | 0.001 | |
| 64. τ | 0.001 | |
| 65. υ | 0.001 | |
| 66. ϕ | 0.001 | |
| 67. χ | 0.001 | |
| 68. ψ | 0.001 | |
| 69. ω | 0.001 | |
| 70. κ | 0.001 | |
| 71. λ | 0.001 | |
| 72. μ | 0.001 | |
| 73. ν | 0.001 | |
| 74. ξ | 0.001 | |
| 75. \omicron | 0.001 | |
| 76. π | 0.001 | |
| 77. ρ | 0.001 | |
| 78. σ | 0.001 | |
| 79. τ | 0.001 | |
| 80. υ | 0.001 | |
| 81. ϕ | 0.001 | |
| 82. χ | 0.001 | |
| 83. ψ | 0.001 | |
| 84. ω | 0.001 | |
| 85. κ | 0.001 | |
| 86. λ | 0.001 | |
| 87. μ | 0.001 | |
| 88. ν | 0.001 | |
| 89. ξ | 0.001 | |
| 90. \omicron | 0.001 | |
| 91. π | 0.001 | |
| 92. ρ | 0.001 | |
| 93. σ | 0.001 | |
| 94. τ | 0.001 | |
| 95. υ | 0.001 | |
| 96. ϕ | 0.001 | |
| 97. χ | 0.001 | |
| 98. ψ | 0.001 | |
| 99. ω | 0.001 | |
| 100. κ | 0.001 | |

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hydrogen), it is preferable to avoid the use of derivatives exhibiting reactive hydrogens which catalyze the release of the blocked isocyanate. Thus, among amines, it is preferable to use only those which
5 do not catalyze the decomposition or the transamidation of the blocked isocyanate functional groups according to the present invention.

These coreactants are generally well known to a person skilled in the art.

10 The invention thus also relates to paint compositions comprising, for successive or simultaneous addition:

- a blocked polyisocyanate according to the invention;
- 15 - a coreactant comprising reactive hydrogen as described above;
- possible catalysts known per se (in particular those based on tin for the oximes);
- optionally at least one pigment;
- 20 - optionally titanium dioxide;
- optionally an aqueous phase;
- optionally a surface-active agent for maintaining as an emulsion or for keeping in suspension the constituent components of the mixture;
- 25 - optionally an organic solvent;
- optionally a dehydrating agent.

The invention also relates to the paint and varnishes obtained by the use of these compositions, with the optional release according to the above
30 process.

OCTANOL TEST

This is the test which defines the percentage of deblocking at a given temperature, which makes
35 possible classification of the blocking agents.

definitions

"Release" (or : this is the lowest temperature at
"deblocking") which the blocking agent of the
temperature blocked isocyanate is 9/10
(mathematically rounded off)
displaced by a primary monoalcohol
(the primary alcohol is generally
octanol).

Shelf life : In order to ensure a good shelf
life, it is preferable to choose
blocked isocyanate functional
groups for which the octanol test
shows a "release" at 80°C,
advantageously at 90°C, at most
equal to 90%.

Progress of the : The reaction is considered to be
reaction complete if it is carried out to
more than 90%.

- 5 In the context of the present invention, the
test is carried out at 110°C.

procedure

- 10 Approximately 5 mmol of protected blocked NCO
equivalent to be evaluated are charged to a Schott-type
tube with magnetic stirring.

- 15 2.5 to 3 ml of 1,2-dichlorobenzene (solvent)
equivalent of 1-octanol (5 mmol, i.e. 0.61 g, and
optionally with the catalyst to be tested with the
blocking group) are added.

- 20 The reaction mixture is subsequently brought to
the test temperature. Heating is then carried out for
6 h at the test temperature, so as to deblock and thus
render reactive the isocyanate functional groups. On
completion of the reaction, the solvent is removed by
vacuum distillation and the residue is analyzed by NMR,
mass and infrared.

The percentage of blocked isocyanate functional group condensed with the 1-octanol is evaluated from these data.

In the presence of a catalyst, the deblocking temperatures are lowered, with respect to the values shown, in proportion to the amount of catalyst introduced. The choice of the catalyst can also make it possible to vary the kinetics of deblocking of one of the blocking agents with respect to the other and consequently to vary the kinetics of crosslinking. The choice of the catalyst will be guided by the constraints of the desired application.

The following nonlimiting examples illustrate the invention.

Example 1

Preparation of HDT blocked with 50% MEKO/50% 1,2,4,-triazole.

500 g of HDT (true trimer of HDI), 68 g of MEKO and 53.9 g of 1,2,4-triazole in 140.6 g of AMP (propylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate) are introduced into a 500 ml jacketed reactor. An exothermic reaction takes place. At the end of the latter, the triazole is not completely dissolved.

The reaction mixture is heated with stirring at 80°C until the triazole has completely dissolved. After one hour at this temperature, 2.7 g of triazole are added and the operation is resumed one hour 30 later. The reaction is allowed to continue for a further one hour. 561.3 g of product are obtained, which product no longer comprises free NCO functional group and exhibits a potential NCO level of 11.56% and a viscosity at 25°C of 83.3 poises (8330 mPa.s).

D = 9.5

(% of deblocking at 110°C: MEKO: 2)

1,2,4-triazole:19)

- temperature for the deblocking of 90% of the blocked product: 150°C

Example 2:

5 Preparation of HDT blocked with 25% MEKO/75% 1,2,4-triazole

The reaction is carried out as for example 1, except that the following reactants are introduced:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| HDT | : 300 g |
| 1,2,4-triazole | : 85.8 g (5% excess) |
| MEKO | : 36 g (5% excess) |
| in AMP | : 140.6 g |

10 The title product is obtained, which product no longer comprises free NCO functional groups and exhibits a potential NOC level of 11.8%.

D = 9.5

- temperature for the deblocking of 90% of the blocked product: 148°C

15 This product rapidly crystallizes, which reduces the advantage thereof for the envisage applications.

Example 3:

20 Preparation of HDT blocked with 50% 1,2,4-triazole/50% POME

The reaction is carried out as for example 1, except that the following reactants are introduced:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| HDT | : 259 g |
| 1,2,4-triazole | : 49.4 g (5% excess) |
| POME | : 93.7 g (5% excess) |
| in AMP | : 134 g |

25 The title product is obtained, which product exhibits a few traces of free NCO functional group, a potential NCO level of 10.7% and a viscosity of 72 poises (7200 mPa.s).

D = 2.47

(% of deblocking at 110°C: POME=47)

30 - temperature for the deblocking of 90% of the blocked product: 145°C

Example 4:

Preparation of HDT blocked with 50% MEKO/50% 1,2,4-triazole in the absence of solvent.

5 The reaction is carried out as for example 1, except that the following reactants are introduced into the reactor:

HDT : 400 g
1,2,4-triazole : 71.9 g
MEKO : 92.1 g (1.5% excess)

A solid product is obtained, which product is crushed and stored in a freezer.

10 D = 9.5

Example 5:

Preparation of HDT blocked with 50% methyl amyl ketoxime/50% 3,5-dimethylpyrazole

15 The following reactant:

HDT : 250 g
in Solvesso 100 : 133.1 g
is introduced, while flushing with argon, into a 1 l round-bottomed flask equipped with a cooling system.

63.9 g of DMP are subsequently added via a funnel. The temperature changes from 20 to 45°C.

20 85.3 g of MAKO in a dropping funnel are subsequently added. The temperature changes from 45 to 62°C. The mixture is heated to 80°C and is maintained at this temperature for one hour. The title product is obtained, which product exhibits a potential NCO level
25 of 10.43% and a viscosity of 22.1 poises (2210 mPa·s) at 25°C.

D = 7.5

- temperature for the deblocking of 90% of the blocked product: 152°C

30

Example 6:

Preparation of HDT blocked with 50% methyl amyl ketoxime/50% 2-hydroxypyridine

The following reactants:

HDT : 250 g
2-hydroxypyridine : 64.8 g
in Solvesso 100 : 133.4 g
are introduced, while flushing with argon, into a 1 l
round-bottomed flask equipped with a cooling system.

The mixture is heated to 80°C and is maintained
5 at this temperature for one hour. It is cooled to 30°C.
The following is added:

MAKO : 85.3 g

The mixture is heated at 80°C for one hour. The
title product is obtained with a potential NCO level of
10.4% and a viscosity at 25°C of 19.7 poises
10 (1970 mPa·s).

D = 40

(% of deblocking at 110°C for 2-OHpyridine
= 100)

- temperature for the deblocking of 90% of the
15 blocked product: 145°C

Example 7:

Preparation of HDT blocked with 50% DMP/50%
2-hydroxypyridine

20 The reaction is carried out as for example 6,
except that DMP (64 g) is introduced in place of the
MAKO and the amount of Solvesso 100 is 126.3 g.

The title product is obtained with a potential
NCO level of 11.0% and a viscosity at 25°C of 30.7
25 poises (3070 mPa·s).

D = 6.66

- temperature for the deblocking of 90% of the
blocked product: 138°C

30 Example 8:

Preparation of HDT blocked with 80% MAKO/20%
DMP

The following:

HDT : 250 g
in Solvesso 100 : 137.7 g
are introduced, while flushing with argon, into a 1 l
round-bottomed flask equipped with a cooling system and
with a system for regulating the temperature.

5 The following:

DMP : 26.6 g
is added via a funnel and then the following:

MAKO : 136.5 g
is added over 15 minutes via a dropping funnel.

10 The temperature rises from 20 to 73°C. The
mixture is heated to 80°C and is maintained at this
temperature for one hour.

The title product is obtained, which product
exhibits a potential NCO level of 10.10% and a
viscosity at 25°C of 17.8 poises (1780 mPa.s).

15 D = 6
- temperature for the deblocking of 90% of the
blocked product: 150°C

Example 9:

Preparation of varnish

20 Varnishes were prepared based on acrylic polyol
(G-Cure 105P 70) with NCO/OH = 1.05 and 50% solids
content (dilution solvent: EPP/Solvesso 100/RPDE:
57/40/3) with three levels of catalysts:

- without DBTL (dibutyltin dilaurate)
- 25 - with 0.05% by weight of DBTL with respect to
the dry varnish;
- with 0.5% by weight of DBTL with respect to
the dry varnish.

30 The characteristics of the blocked isocyanates
are as follows:

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|---------------|---------------|
| HDI polyiso- cyanate | Trimer | Trimer | Trimer | Trimer |
| Blocking | MEKO | POME | MEKO/triazole | POME/triazole |

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|------------------|-------|-------|
| reactant | | | 50/50 | 50/50 |
| SC (%) | 74 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| Solvent | Solvesso 100 | Butyl acetate | AMP* | AMP* |
| NCO | 11.20 | 9.80 | 11.56 | 10.70 |

*AMP: propylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate

Applications

Each varnish was applied to glass plates (wet
5 200 μ m gauge), left desolvated for 30 minutes at
ambient temperature and then stoved for 30 minutes at
various temperatures from 110 to 160°C according to the
amount of catalyst.

Twenty-four hours after stoving, the Persoz
10 hardness and the resistance to MEK were measured. The
combined analysis of these two measurements makes it
possible to determine the deblocking (crosslinking)
temperature for curing each of the varnishes for 30
minutes. The results are presented in the table below:

15

| | without catalyst (°C) | with 0.05% DBTL (°C) | with 0.5% DBTL (°C) |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 160 | 150 | 140 |
| 2 | 140/150 | 130 | 120 |
| 3 | 150 | 140 | 130 |
| 4 | 140/150 | 130 | 120 |

Thus, it is seen to emerge that:

- for the same curing agent, the change from 0
to 0.05 and then 0.5% of DBTL decreases the blocking
20 temperature by 10°C and 20°C respectively;

- the MEKO/triazole mixed blocking makes it
possible to decrease the blocking temperature by 10°C
at least with respect to MEKO alone, whatever the level
of catalyst;

25 - the POME/triazole mixed blocking gives
identical results to the POME alone blocking. This is
consequently advantageous as regards cost.

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. An at least partially blocked composition comprising isocyanates, characterized in that it is
5 blocked by at least two different blocking agents, one of the blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an OH group and the other reacting with the isocyanate functional group via an NH group or the two blocking agents reacting with the isocyanate
10 functional group via an OH group, the two blocking agents having a deblocking temperature of between 80 and 200°C in the octanol test and being selected so that, in the octanol test at 110°C, the ratio

percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks first at 110°C

D=

percentage in equivalents of blocking agent which deblocks last at 110°C

15 is greater than 4/3, advantageously greater than 1.5, preferably greater than 2, with the proviso that, when a blocking agent comprises a phenol functional group as blocking functional group, it does not comprise a COOH
20 functional group and that, when the polyisocyanate composition comprises more than two blocking groups and one of the agents represents a five-membered nitrogenous heterocycle, the composition comprises more than 30 equivalent % of blocking agents reacting with
25 the isocyanate functional group via the OH functional group.

2. Composition comprising isocyanates according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the ratio of the blocking groups is between 10/90 and
30 90/10, advantageously 20/80 and 80/20.

3. Composition comprising isocyanates according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that one of the blocking agents is a substituted or unsubstituted (poly)nitrogenous heterocyclic compound.

4. Composition comprising isocyanates according to claim 3, characterized in that the (poly)nitrogenous heterocyclic compound is selected from substituted or unsubstituted pyrazole, triazole and pyridine.

5 5. Composition comprising isocyanates according to
claim 7, characterized in that the (poly)nitrogenous
heterocyclic compound is substituted or unsubstituted
triazole.

6. Composition comprising isocyanates according to
10 any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that one of
the two blocking agents is an oxime.

7. Composition according to claim 6, characterized in that the oxime is selected from methyl ethyl ketoxime, acetone oxime, methyl amyl ketoxime, the oxime of methyl pyruvate and the oxime of ethyl pyruvate.

8. Composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the blocking agents are selected from the pairs:

- 20
- triazole/methyl ethyl ketoxime,
 - triazole/oxime of ethyl pyruvate,
 - dimethylpyrazole/methyl amyl ketoxime,
 - hydroxypyridine/methyl amyl ketoxime, and
 - dimethylpyrazole/hydroxypyridine.

9. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims comprising a mixture of compounds carrying blocked isocyanate functional group(s), characterized in that said mixture exhibits a mean functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked isocyanate functional groups per molecule comprising them) of greater than 2, advantageously at least equal to 2.1, and at most equal to approximately 5, advantageously to 4.

10. Composition according to any one of claims 1 to
35 9, characterized in that said mixture exhibits a mean
functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked
isocyanate functional group per molecule comprising
them) at least equal to 2.4.

11. Composition according to any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that said mixture exhibits a mean functionality (number of blocked or nonblocked isocyanate functional group per molecule comprising them) at most equal to 3.7.

12. Composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11, in which the mixture of the compounds carrying isocyanate functional groups fulfills at least one, advantageously at least two, preferably at least three, of the following conditions:

- at least one third, advantageously two thirds, preferably four fifth, of the free or blocked NCO functional groups are connected to a hydrocarbonaceous backbone via a saturated (sp^3) carbon;

- at least one third, advantageously two thirds, preferably four fifth, of said saturated (sp^3) carbons carry at least one, advantageously two, hydrogen(s);

- at least a third, advantageously at least a half, preferably at least two thirds, of said saturated (sp^3) carbons are connected to said backbone via a carbon atom itself carrying at least one hydrogen, advantageously two.

13. Composition according to any one of claims 1 to 12 for the preparation of a coating, characterized in that it additionally comprises, for successive or simultaneous addition, a coreactant comprising a reactive hydrogen.

14. Use of the compositions according to any one of claims 1 to 13 for the preparation of a coating, in particular a paint.

15. Process for the preparation of a composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a (poly)isocyanate composition is reacted, successively or simultaneously, with the blocking agents as defined in one of claims 1 to 8.

16. Process for the preparation of polymers, characterized in that it comprises the following stages:

5 - bringing together a blocked polyisocyanate as defined in any one of claims 1 to 13 and a coreactant which comprises derivatives exhibiting reactive hydrogens;

and

10 - heating the reaction mixture thus formed to a temperature which makes possible crosslinking of the components.

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T06260" 0894460

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION**

Attorney's Docket No.

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I BELIEVE I AM THE ORIGINAL, FIRST AND SOLE INVENTOR (if only one name is listed below) OR AN ORIGINAL, FIRST AND JOINT INVENTOR (if more than one name is listed below) OF THE SUBJECT MATTER WHICH IS CLAIMED AND FOR WHICH A PATENT IS SOUGHT ON THE INVENTION ENTITLED:

" Mixed blocked (poly)isocyanates ".

the specification of which

(check one)

☐

is attached hereto;

☒

was filed on July 22, 1999 as

Application No. PCT/FR9901805

and was amended on _____;
(if applicable)

I HAVE REVIEWED AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ABOVE-IDENTIFIED SPECIFICATION, INCLUDING THE CLAIMS, AS AMENDED BY ANY AMENDMENT REFERRED TO ABOVE:

I ACKNOWLEDGE THE DUTY TO DISCLOSE TO THE OFFICE ALL INFORMATION KNOWN TO ME TO BE MATERIAL TO PATENTABILITY AS DEFINED IN TITLE 37, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, Sec. 1.56 (as amended effective March 16, 1992);

I do not know and do not believe the said invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to said application; that said invention was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to said application; that said invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of said application in any country foreign to the United States of America on any application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to said application;

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code Sec. 119 and/or Sec. 365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate as indicated below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Attorney's Docket No.

| COUNTRY/INTERNATIONAL | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING (day, month, year) | PRIORITY CLAIMED |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| FRANCE | 9809718 | 29/07/98 | YES <u>X</u> NO <u> </u> |
| | | | YES <u> </u> NO <u> </u> |

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and agent(s) to prosecute said application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and to file, prosecute and to transact all business in connection with international applications directed to said invention:

William L. Mathis 17,337
 Robert S. Swecker 19,885
 Platon N. Mandros 22,124
 Benton S. Duffett, Jr. 22,030
 Norman H. Stepno 22,716
 Ronald L. Grudziecki 24,970
 Frederick G. Michaud, Jr. 26,003
 Alan E. Kopecki 25,813
 Regis E. Slutzner 26,999
 Samuel C. Miller, III 27,360
 Robert G. Mukai 28,531
 George A. Hovanec, Jr. 28,223
 James A. LaBarre 28,632
 E. Joseph Gess 28,510

R. Danny Huntington 27,903
 Eric H. Weisblatt 30,505
 James W. Peterson 26,057
 Teresa Stanek Rea 30,427
 Robert E. Krebs 25,885
 William C. Rowland 30,888
 T. Gene Dillahunty 25,423
 Patrick C. Keane 32,858
 B. Jefferson Boggs, Jr. 32,344
 William H. Benz 25,952
 Peter K. Skiff 31,917
 Richard J. McGrath 29,195
 Matthew L. Schneider 32,814
 Michael G. Savage 32,596

Gerald F. Swiss 30,113
 Charles F. Wieland III 33,096
 Bruce T. Wiedner 33,815
 Todd R. Walters 34,040
 Ronni S. Jillions 31,979
 Harold R. Brown III 36,341
 Allen R. Baum 36,086
 Steven M. duBois 35,023
 Brian P. O'Shaughnessy 32,747
 Kenneth B. Leffler 36,075
 Fred W. Hathaway 32,236

**21839**and: Norman H. Stepno

Address all correspondence to:

**21839**

Norman H. Stepno, Esquire
 BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
 P.O. Box 1404
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404

Address all telephone calls to: _____ at (703) 836-6620.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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|--|--|-------------------------------|---|
| FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR Eugénie CHARRIERE | | SIGNATURE <i>Charriere</i> | DATE January 15 th , 2001 |
| RESIDENCE 52, rue d'Inkermann 69000 LYON FRANCE FRX | | CITIZENSHIP French | |
| POST OFFICE ADDRESS The same as above | | | |
| FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY Jean-Marie BERNARD | | SIGNATURE <i>Bernard</i> | DATE January 15 th , 2001 |
| RESIDENCE Route du Large Saint Laurent d'Agnay 69440 MORNANT FRANCE FRX | | CITIZENSHIP French | |
| POST OFFICE ADDRESS The same as above | | | |